Mathematics, B.A.

The Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics is a lively, student-centered program that’s distinguished for fostering future scholars, our work in math education, and expertise in the application of mathematical principles to environmental sciences. With the support of Mathematics faculty and opportunities to apply your knowledge, you’ll learn how to conceptualize problems and develop analytical skills. You’ll also sharpen your ability to think logically, work with abstract concepts, and communicate effectively.

Experience Your Learning

Students are actively involved in their learning, doing everything from modeling zebrafish brains and creating two supercomputers to designing activities for local K-12 students and competing in national math contests.

All of our first-year Math students are part of a place-based learning community called “Representing Realities,” which will help you meet and get to know other Math majors, offers a pre-semester immersion experience to introduce you to the major, and more.

The Mathematics Club meets regularly and organizes both academic and social events. Recent highlights include conversations with alumni, pi day activities, and movie/pizza nights.

Students can also participate in many annual contests, from smaller local events, like the Integration Bee, to large national events like the Putnam Exam and the Mathematical Contest in Modeling where the students spend a weekend together working on a problem that addresses broad issues (such as sustainable energy or political stability).

Other opportunities include lecture series and a math colloquium.

Did you know?

- Contemporary mathematics continues the tradition of providing the underlying basis and structure for virtually all modern scientific and technological developments.
- Every year, math students are invited to participate in the State of Jefferson Mathematics Congress. This weekend camping trip brings mathematics students and faculty together from Humboldt and other universities in the region to share math, meals, and a campfire.
Academics & Options

Mathematics, B.A.

The curriculum is rigorous yet flexible enough to help you develop basic analytical skills and sharpen your ability to think logically, work with abstract ideas, and recognize patterns and structures. Whether through coursework or extracurricular activities, students learn to apply abstract mathematical concepts to real-life situations while building practical skills that will prepare them for graduate school and a variety of careers.

Minors

- Mathematics Minor
- Applied Statistics Minor

Minors in Mathematics are created on an individual basis between the student and the department chair. The Applied Statistics minor provides broad statistical knowledge and skills to research and how to manage problems in a wide variety of disciplines. The introductory, intermediate, and topics courses include computer laboratory sessions where students learn to use statistical software.

Careers

Mathematics students hone their ability to think critically, becoming thoughtful about what they state and what they prove. These skills are crucial, especially in a world of endless information and big data. Knowing how to analyze and solve problems prepares students for a variety of fields in public and private sectors.

- Data analyst
- Statistician
- Campaign Manager
- Testing product engineer
- Math teacher (K–12)
- Business analyst
- Actuary
- Computer scientist
- Mathematician

This program prepared me for my job by helping me develop analytical skills that I in turn use on a daily basis to solve problems. In every patient’s case there are numerous variables one has to weigh individually, all while understanding how those variables work in relation to one another and affect one another. There is a lot about medicine that boils down to problem solving, which is not much different than mathematics.

Elika Ketabchi ('10, Mathematics), Clinical Pharmacist, works in a primary care clinic and manages patients with chronic diseases by creating a treatment plan based on their diagnosis.